The South 40

About fescue

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

Fescue is the major source of grazing and probably hay in Appomattox County and many other counties in the southeastern states. Research has indicated that there is a fungus associated with this plant that may cause fescue toxicity (summer syndrome) in cattle grazing tall fescue.

A recent research study at Auburn University adds to the earlier research. They fed four rations containing either 60% fungus-free seed, 60% fungus-infected seed, 85% fungus-free hay or 85% fungus-infested hay. The presence of the fungus reduced daily gains in steers fed either the seed ration or the hay rations. Feed intake was depressed 36% for the seed rations and 8% for the hay rations when the fungus was present. Temperatures were elevated when either of the fungus-infected rations was fed. Cattle fed the fungus ration were nervous and highly excitable.

There are other reports that suggest that fungus contaminated feeds cause an increase in respiration, rough hair coats and excessive salivation.

At this point, efforts are being made to develop some practical recommendation that dairy and beef producers can use. The Virginia Tech Dairy Specialists are saying, when in doubt, be safe. Perhaps caution is needed for dry cows and heifers at 1-2 months before calving by feeding other forage.

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Last week George Jackson, Lynchburg Office, Virginia Employment Office, called to say that if you are experiencing labor problems, they may be able to help. If you are interested in interstate labor or local labor or information about recruitment of labor, call 528-6671.

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Two county commodity groups have recently selected new leadership for 1983.

The Appomattox Dairymen's Association elected Marvin Glover, President; William Hix, Vice President; Dennis Torrence, Secretary-Treasurer.

Quarterly meetings are scheduled for April 4, July 16, October 17 and January 16.

The Appomattox Cattlemen's Association elected Albert Carter, President; Clarence White, Vice President; John Harrison, Secretary; Bill Williamson, Treasurer; Directors, Conard Seymour and B. J. Lucado. The 1983 meetings will be March 15, July 9, October 18 and January 17.

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Tentative dates have been established for the spring feeder sales March 31, Lynchburg; April 1, Farmville; and April 14, Lynchburg.

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The Virginia Beef Industry Convention will be held February 10, 11 & 12 at Hot Springs. Programs are available from this office.

* * *

Two other meetings of general interest will be held February 9-10 at Williamsburg. Virginia Direct Marketing Conference will be at Fort Magruder Inn and Corn-Soybean Conference will be held at The Williamsburg Hilton and National Conference Center. Programs for these two meetings are also available.

* * *

The Red House Senior Bull Sale on January 29 sold 81 bulls for an average of $1417. The breakdown by breeds is: 17 Polled Hereford $1235; 45 Angus $1382, 13 Simmental $1446; and 6 Charolais $2138.

Lot 60, an Angus bull, sold for $11,900. Other top selling bulls were: Polled Hereford $3300, Simmental $3400, Charolais $3600. Another Angus bull went for $3450.

* * *

A popular misconception is that black cherry leaves must be wilted before they are toxic. The HCN potential is as high for fresh leaves as wilted leaves. However, access to the leaves by cattle is usually limited unless the branches have fallen from the trees.

Now is a good time to remove cherry trees from pasture, fence lines and treat the stump with 2, 4-D (ester) 1.5 pounds in 12 gallons of oil -- apply thoroughly, soon after cutting or use amate crystals at 1 ounce per inch of stump diameter.

* * *

Now is the time to re-establish clover in grass hay stands and pastures. Clover can be re-established successfully -- Use a grain drill. Do not plant seed no deeper than ¼-½", use a grassland drill or no-till planter, disc land lightly or if grass is short and moisture supply is good, a chain drag or spike tooth harrow may be all that is necessary to expose some mineral soil. In several of these operations, a seeder mounted on the back of the tractor can be used with other equipment.

Pastures should receive 1½-2 pounds of giant white clover (ladino or Tillman), plus 2 to 3 pounds red clover.

Mid to late-February is an excellent time to re-establish clover in grass. I hope you will make this a priority.

* * *

A meeting to examine changes and updates in the tax laws affecting farmers originally scheduled for Monday, Feb. 7, was rescheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the East Central District Extension Office auditorium (across the street from the courthouse.

Invitation extended

The Stonewall Extension Homemakers Club extends an open invitation to all persons, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age national origin, handicap, or political affiliation, who wish to attend any club meetings, and participate in the civic activities sponsored by the organization.

Please call 993-2935 or 993-2306 if you are interested in attending a meeting.

Homemakers to meet

The regular monthly meeting of the Appomattox Homemakers Club will be Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church.

All members are urged to be present.

MS. HIX'S THIRD GRADE class now knows how to mount a deer head. They learned first hand as Clem O'Brien assembled one in their classroom on Monday, January 31, 1983. The process is one Clem has perfected over the years from experience, watching others, and reading. Students experienced this unique process from skin to mount. The demonstration concluded a study on animal life and habitat.

SS board to meet

Members of Southern States Cooperative's local board and committee members, agricultural workers and retail managers will attend a regional board meeting in Farmville, on February 16. The session will be held at Longwood College and registration will begin at 9 a.m.

Expected to attend the meeting are: Ronald Coleman and Dan G. Coleman, managers of Coleman and Sons and local board members; Roy T. Bennett, Concord; Dennis W. Drinkard, Hunt P. Hamilton, Archer Webb, Appomattox; John C. Harris of Evergreen and B. C. Massey of Pamplin.

Also attending the meeting will be a numer of guest young farmers from this area.

A total of 37 of these regional meetings will be held by Southern States over a five-state area. The cooperative serves farmer-members who live in Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Kentucky and who hold a total of 336,835 memberships in the organization.

Eldridge W. Sanderson of Cartersville, VA, a member of the 15-man board of directors will preside at the meeting. Sanderson represents the cooperative's members in south central Virginia. He was elected to the board in 1975.

Featured at the session will be a presentation entitled "Gearing Retail to Operating in the 80's" to be presented by M. T. Ragsdale, vice president, Petroleum Division for the cooperative. Plus a financial report for the co-op's first six months of the fiscal year.

There will also be a video tape personal message to the session from Secretary of Agriculture, John Block, plus a videotape dialogue between Gene A. James, the co-op's executive vice president and general manager, and Dr. Joe Coffey the co-op's director of Economic Research and Planning. They will discuss the future of agriculture and the operation of cooperative. Plus a financial report for the co-op's first six months of the fiscal year.

Happiness is 4-H

'Speaking' finals set

By FRANK SWEET

Many 4-H'ers have taken part in 4-H Public Speaking preliminary programs over the past week. Each participant received ribbons which were provided by Farmers National Bank. The 4-H Public Speaking finals will be held on Thursday evening, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m. at Appomattox Elementary School.

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The deadline for strawberry orders is Thursday, February 10. Plants will arrive in mid-March and each family ordering plants will be notified.

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Once again, the American Beekeeping Association is sponsoring an essay contest entitled "The Honeybee's Place in the World" for 4-H members. Essays should be from 750-1,000 words and may be handwritten or typed. Some nice prizes are available on the national level. Details and additional information are available from the Extension Office.

* * *

A special thanks to Glen McClenny, Laura Walton, Brett Marston, Janet Baker and Beth Marston who provided a program for the Red House 4-H Club last week. Glen and Brett discussed the 4-H Judging teams and the opportunities provided; Janet and Beth did presentations for the club, while Laura discussed 4-H achievement records.

* * *

Wildlife feed patch seed applications are being distributed to 4-H members in each club. Applications for the seed will be due in the Extension Office by March 31. The annual feed patch seeds are an excellent way for young people to learn about wildlife conservation.

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A special Appomattox County 4-H Fund Raising Committee has been formed to help coordinate raising funds for Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center. Chairman of the committee is Dr. Kenneth Powell. Other committee members are Mr. Jim Nolen, Mrs. Mary Lo Harrison, Mr. Michael Hancock Mrs. Scott Dawson, Miss Ingri Moore, Mrs. Tawanna Lee, M Darrell Conner and Mrs. Harri James.

* * *

The annual Appomattox 4-H Presentations program is set fo Saturday, March 26, at Appomatto Elementary School. All 4-H'ers aged 9-13, are eligible to participate in this program. Details about the program and special help workshops will be available to 4-H'ers in mid-February. Each year, nearly 100 4-H'ers take part in this special program.

* * *

The ACHS 4-H had a most interesting program on Summer Employment Opportunities last week. The program was presented by Mr. John Curran and Miss Rita Inge of the Virginia Employment Commission. Their message to teenagers seeking summer work was: 1) Start looking early; 2) Don't be afraid to ask; 3) Be neat and respectful and 4) Be realistic in seeding summer work.

Concord homemakers meet

The February meeting of the Concord Chapter of Young Homemakers of Virginia was held Monday, Feb. 7, at the home of Mrs. Kathy Jones, hostess for the meeting.

A program on safety, "Seat and Child Restraints", was given by Mrs. Evelyn Carroll, Safety Chairman.

The next meeting will be held on March 7 at the home of Mrs. Mary Jo Booth.

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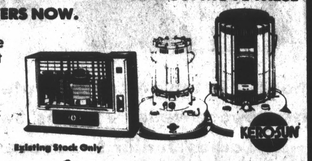
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Q-Tips 375's Revco's low, everyday discount price $1.79
Kotex Maxi Pads 30's Specially marked packages only $2.09
Polident Denture Cleanser Tablets 60's Revco's low, everyday discount price $1.99
L'oreal ULTRA RICH SHAMPOO OR CONDITIONER Asst. 16 fl. oz. Revco's low, everyday discount price $1.29 ea.
Kotex Lightdays Pads 30's Reg. or Deodorant Specially marked packages only $1.69 ea.
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